

12.4 MFC LETTER TO THE OYSTER HATCHERY PLANNING ADVISORY TEAM TO CONSIDER ALL SHELLFISH IN THE HATCHERY FACILITY

History: The Bay Scallop Advisory Committee and DMF recommended to the MFC that the Oyster Hatchery Planning Advisory Team consider multiple uses of the oyster hatchery facility for different shellfish species. Since plans for the hatchery will be completed before implementation of the Bay Scallop FMP, a letter to endorse this recommendation was written by the MFC in April 2006 for the Oyster Hatchery Planning Advisory Committee to consider this item. This is a copy of the letter.

April 28, 2006

Mr. J.P. McCann, Director
N.C. Aquarium on Roanoke Island
Oyster Hatchery Planning Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 967
Airport Road
Manteo, NC 27954-0967

Dear Sir,

At its April 3, 2006 meeting, the Bay Scallop Fishery Management Plan Advisory Committee recommended that the Oyster Hatchery Planning Advisory Committee consider multiple use of the demonstration oyster hatchery facilities to include other species of shellfish.

The Marine Fisheries Commission would like to endorse that recommendation and urge the Committee to look into the production of hard clam and bay scallop larvae and seed for research and possible enhancement of natural stocks.

Sincerely,

Mac Currin, Chairman
Marine Fisheries Commission

Follow up: The May 2006 Interim Report from the Oyster Hatchery Planning Advisory Committee indicated that language is incorporated into the planning document so that consideration may be given to designing the shellfish hatchery(s) that are flexible and can be used for the production of several species throughout the year (North Carolina Aquariums 2006).